THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per Government instructions requirement for use of three languages for the sign-boards etc. is applicable to offices located in Region 'C' only. Bombay does not come in this category.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir, All the sign boards at National Airports Authority airport in Bombay are in accordance with the Government policy.

Inland Air Tax

2552. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have approached Government with the suggestion that it may be permitted to retain the inland air tax collected from each passenger ;

(b) what is the annual income from this air travel tax collected from the passengers ;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines have also decided to reduce the cancellation fee on air tickets to a nominal rate ;

(d) what was the earlier fee the passenger had to lose if the ticket was to be cancelled;

(e) what are the other steps Indian Airlines is considering to take to arrange the funds; and

(f) whether Government have agreed to the proposals for retaining the inland air travel tax collected from the passenger ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Annual Inland Air Travel Tax collection for the last three years is as under :—

Year	IATT collected (Rs. in crore)
1991-92	122.32
1992-93	160.50
1993-94	138.79

(c) The slab-wise cancellation charges have been removed by Indian Airlines with effect from 1-8-94 for passengers who cancel their booking upto one hour before the scheduled departure of the flight.

(d) The cancellation rules prior to August 1994 were as under :—

(i) 48 hours or more prior to departure of flights—Rs. 20.00

(ii) Less than 48 hours and upto 24 hours befored eparture of Flights—10% of Basic fare.

(iii) Less than 24 hours and upto one hour —25 % of Basic fare.

(iv) Within one hour of departure of flight —100% of Basic fare.

(e) The following are the main steps taken by Indian Airlines to meet the funds requirement :—

—Stepping up utilization of existing fleet to increase revenue.

—Reduction in expenditure without effecting efficiency/productivity.

—Freezing recruitment.

—Route rationalization.

—Import of ATF under Special Import licence.

—Indian Airlines has revised its domestic rupee fare ranging between 10% to 20% on all sctors effective 25-7-1994.

(f) No final decision has yet been taken by Government.

Irregularities in ITDC

2553. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the "Sunday Mail" of June 5-11, 1994 captioned "ITDC Managers insecure over Security Agency" ;

(b) whether Government have ordered any investigation into the irregularities mentioned therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have also received any memorandum of Appeal dated the 18th October, 1994 from All India Parytan Jan Mazdoor Sabha reg : immediate repatriation of Executive Director (Vigilance) ;

(e) if so, what are the facts and recommendations of Central Bureau of Investigation/ Central Vigilance Commission in the matter and the steps taken by the Government against the Executive Director (Vigilance) of India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(f) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter has been investigated. In the wake of bomb blasts of March, 1993 and due to spurt in terrorist activities, the security arrangements in ITDC units were reviewed by a High Power Committee (H.P.C.) comprising of 7 senior officers of ITDC. The H.P.C. recommended that private security agency may be engaged for the reason that their manpower will be financially cheaper, impartial, easy to rotate and free from vested interests. This will also provide easy manoeuvrability in suddenly reducing or increasing the deployed manpower on short notice in view of Red Alerts etc. It was also decided to identify one single private security agency capable of providing the best qualitative manpower to all ITDC needy units throughout the country. Pre-qualification tenders for selecting a suitable Private Security Agency were invited through press advertisements in national dailies. In all, 25 parties responded. The offers were scrutinized. Out of 25 parties, 19 agencies as had not submitted the requisite documents (like Income Tax Clearance Certificate, certificate of their registration with various statutory bodies i.e. Employee's Provident Fund, Employees' State Insurance, Local Shops and Establishment Registration and copies of their balance sheet for last 3 years etc.) were rejected leaving thereby only 6 parties which submitted their tenders with complete documents. For physical verification of facts/ data provided by the agencies, most of the members of the High Power Committee visited the offices of above referred 6 agencies. After the visit of the committee to those agencies and on going through the relevant documents, the committee dropped 5 agencies on the grounds that they were not having sufficient infrastructure or were not financially sound. The H.P.C. unanimously recommended that M/s Security and Intelligence Services is the best agency to do the job. The recommendation was approved by the ITDC Board of Directors. Hence there was no irregularity in the award of contract.

While deciding about the engagement of manpower from private security agency, it was ensured that neither retrenchment of regular ITDC Security Staff will take place nor their career prospects adversely affected from any angle.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Disputes pending against management of ITDC

2554. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "The Times of India" of 9th October, 1994 captioned "PSU Officers sue management";

(b) what are the number of disputes pending against the Management of India Tourism Development Corporation in various Courts alongwith brief details reg : violation of service rules alleged therein;

(c) what steps Government have taken streamline the rules and regulations to reduce the incidence of litigation by ITDC Management against its own employees;

(d) whether any approval of the Board or the Ministry taken before filing or defending any case against the Management as per stipulations in the Memorandum and Articles of Association; and

(e) if not, the reasons and justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 30th September, 94, 22 dispute cases filed by the officers were pending in various courts on service matters relating to termination, suspension, disciplinary action, promotion, transfer etc. Besides, 235 cases of service matters filed by workmen of different units were pending in various courts.